

Message Text

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----- 033692

R 090116Z HAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS STATE 113142

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV; IAEA; US

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO IAEA TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVER IN
LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE OCEAN DISPOSAL RESEARCH PROJECT

1. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY PASSING FOLLOWING TO DR. C.H.
MILLAR, DIVISION OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT PROTEC-
TION, IAEA.

2. THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PLANS TO CON-
DUCT A SURVEY OF A DEEP OCEAN RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL
SITE DURING THE PERIOD JULY 20-28 AND WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND
AN INVITATION TO IAEA TO PARTICIPATE AS AN OBSERVER. THE
SITE IS LOCATED 160 KM DUE EAST OF THE MARYLAND-DELAWARE
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COAST. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ARE (A) TO COLLECT
SEDIMENT SAMPLES IN AND AROUND BREACHED CONTAINERS IN ORDER
TO STUDY THE EXTENT OF HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL RELEASE OF
RADIONUCLIDES; (B) TO IMPLANT DEEP OCEAN CURRENT METERS

IN THE PERIPHERY OF THE SITE TO ESTABLISH THE PRESENCE OF CURRENTS AND TO MAKE ESTIMATES OF POTENTIAL TRANSPORT OR RELEASED RADIOACTIVITY; (C) TO COLLECT BOX CORE SAMPLES FOR INFAUNAL STUDIES TO DETERMINE THE BIOLOGICAL SPECTRUM AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION OF RADIONUCLIDES (BIOTURBATION); (D) TO INVESTIGATE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF

DEEP OCEAN DISPOSAL SITES, PERHAPS TO INCLUDE FISH BAITING WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION VIA REMOTE CAMERA; (E) TO INVESTIGATE SEDIMENT RETENTION PROPERTIES (E.G., CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY); AND (F) POSSIBLE RECOVERY OF TWO OR MORE SELECTED CONTAINERS AND TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON (1) THE MODES AND RATES OF METAL CORROSION (2) THE EFFECTS OF METAL STRESS ON ACCELERATED LOCALIZED CORROSION (3) THE ULTIMATE LIFE OF THE MILD STEEL CONTAINERS (4) LEACH RATES AND CHEMICAL DEGRADATION PROCESSES OF THE CONCRETE MATRIX.

3. THE SERIES OF DIVES WILL BE MADE IN THE ALVIN, A MAN-NED DEEP WATER SUBMERSIBLE WITH A DEPTH CAPABILITY OF 3800 METERS. THE SUBMERSIBLE WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO THE SITE BY THE MOTHER SHIP THE RESEARCH VESSEL (R/V) LULU, DEPARTING FROM WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS. THE R/V CAPE HENLOPEN WILL BE THE ESCORT SHIP AND DEPART FROM LEWES, DELAWARE. R/V CAPE HENLOPEN IS EQUIPPED WITH A HYDROGRAPHIC WINCH AND A DOUBLE-SPOOLED TRAWL WINCH.

4. EPA WOULD ENTERTAIN ANY RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS THE IAEA MIGHT MAKE.

5. INVITATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JAPAN ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE.AS WELL AS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

6. DUE TO TIGHT TIME SCHEDULE NEED EARLY RESPONSE. KISSINGER

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